



Conservation Practice Overview

July 2021

Dry Hydrant (Code 432)

A dry hydrant is a nonpressurized permanent pipe assembly installed into a water source to permit the withdrawal of water by suction.

Practice Information

A dry hydrant is installed to provide all-weather access to a water source for fire suppression, livestock water, small acreage irrigation, wetland management, or other purposes where water is needed in limited quantities on a periodic basis.



This practice applies where an adequate volume of water is available, where transport vehicles can access the site, and where a source of water is needed for the described purposes.

In rural areas, the lack of water mains and pressurized fire hydrants can sometimes impair a fire department's ability to do its job quickly and efficiently. The success of a fire department's operation hinges on the distance a truck must travel to fill up with water and return to the fire. In many cases, fill-up points are long distances from the fire and the firefighters are unable to maintain an uninterrupted water source at the scene. Availability of dry hydrants helps to overcome these challenges.

For purposes other than fire suppression, a dry hydrant provides a fixed access point to withdraw limited quantities of water on a periodic basis.

A dry hydrant requires maintenance over the expected life of the practice.

Common Associated Practices

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Dry Hydrant (Code 432) is commonly applied with other conservation practices such as NRCS CPSs Access Road (Code 560), Pond (Code 378), Dam (Code 402), Access Control (Code 472), and Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.